



Informational Notes for EMDs and Local Officials

Bulletin #17 – September 12, 2002

The White House, Homeland Security and American Red Cross

The White House and the Office of Homeland Security would like the Emergency Management Community to consider promoting the use of American Red Cross protective measures to our citizens. In light of the heightened security measures for the September 11th Anniversary, the American Red Cross recommends protective measures for individuals, families, neighborhoods, schools and businesses. These downloadable (PDF) brochures may be found at www.redcross.org

Suggested Condition Orange Protective Measures for State and Locals

The threat level was raised to Condition Orange from Condition Yellow. In addition to continuing all precautions from the lower threat condition, the following general protective measures are recommended: Coordinating necessary security efforts with armed forces or law enforcement agencies; Taking additional precautions at public events; review contingency plans to work at an alternate site or with a dispersed work force; and Review plans to restrict access to facilities.

Here are some suggested Specific Protective Measures for State and Local Authorities: Enhance security at critical facilities; Announce threat Condition Orange to all employees and explain expected actions; Instruct employees to report suspicious activities, packages and people; Restrict vehicle parking close to buildings; Inspect all deliveries and consider accepting shipments only at offsite locations; Require identification, sign-in, and escorts as required; Instruct employees to be especially watchful for suspicious or unattended packages and articles either delivered or received through the mail; Be prepared to activate your Emergency Operations Center; Designate a public information officer who may work in a Joint Information Center; Review policy and plans relating to restricting access to critical facilities and infrastructure; Report suspicious activity immediately to local law enforcement; and be ready to deploy security personnel based on threat assessments.

Disaster Field Office Closes

Direct Damage Project Questions to SEMA

The FEMA/State Disaster Field Office for the Spring Tornadoes and Flooding has closed. If you have any questions related to disaster projects, funding or documentation, call SEMA Disaster Assistance Chief Charles May at 573-526-9112, or staff members Alan Prenger at 573-526-9114 or Don Carter at 573-526-922. If you need to send documentation, please mail the information to Charles May, SEMA Disaster Assistance Section, P. O. Box 116, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0116.

SEMA Training Schedule Posted to Internet

The FY'03 SEMA Training schedule is posted to our Internet homepage. Operations Branch Chief, James Wakeman, noted that half of the training classes offered in the first three months are WMD related. Remember you can sign up to take free SEMA training via the Internet, fax, or by calling SEMA Training Assistant Susan Rhoades at 573-526-9121.

56 Missouri Counties Identified With Drought Problems

On September 11, 2002, the Department of Natural Resources identified 56 Missouri counties in either Phase 1 Advisory Drought Phase or Phase 2 Drought Alert Phase. Current soil conditions in the western part of Missouri are the reason for the drought status.

Missouri Counties in Phase 1 – Advisory Phase are: Adair, Barry, Benton, Caldwell, Camden, Carroll, Cedar, Chariton, Christian, Cooper, Dade, Dallas, Daviess, Greene, Grundy, Hickory, Howard, Johnson, Lafayette, Laclede, Lawrence, Linn, Livingston, McDonald, Miller, Moniteau, Morgan, Newton, Pettis, Polk, Putnam, Ray, Saline, Stone, Sullivan and Taney.

Missouri Counties in Phase 2 – Drought Alert are: Andrew, Atchison, Barton, Bates, Buchanan, Cass, Clay, Clinton, DeKalb, Gentry, Harrison, Henry, Holt, Jackson, Jasper, Mercer, Nodaway, Platte, St. Clair, Vernon, and Worth.

The 2002 Missouri Drought Plan is available from the department's Geological Survey and Resource Assessment Division at Rolla. It is on the DNR website at www.dnr.state.mo.us/geology/droughtupdate.htm.

FEMA Announces More Fire Grants

FEMA announced Missouri Fire Departments would receive federal grants. Departments receiving grants for fire operations and firefighter safety are: Pumpkin Center Fire Department (\$8,997), Kinloch (St. Louis) Fire Protection District (\$86,136), Crocker Fire Protection District (\$68,138), Green Ridge Community Fire Department (\$9,494), Edgerton-Trimble Fire Protection District (\$25,380), Armstrong Fire Protection District (\$9,550), Bolivar Fire Department (\$44,748), Miller Rural Fire Protection Association (\$43,775), Jenkins Rural Fire Department (\$21,065), Olympia Rural Fire Department (\$61,253), Kewanee/Laforge (New Madrid area) Rural Volunteer Fire Department (\$23,765), and Perry Rural Fire Association (\$36,842). Three Fire Departments receiving grants for a vehicle are: Gallatin Fire Protection District (\$33,300), Hamilton Fire Department (\$49,500), and Southern Iron County Fire Protection District (\$149,850). The St. Clair Fire Protection District will receive a fire prevention grant for \$19,620.

Download Homeland Defense Journal #15 and #16

The *Homeland Defense Journal* issues #15 and a special 911 issue #16 are now available at www.homelanddefensejournal.com. The Journal is in a PDF format. You can also download past issues from their archives. These two issues includes articles on: Capitol Hill Initiatives, Congressional Legislation, the Role of Small Police Departments in Homeland Security and Intelligence Sharing through the Department of Justice, High Tech Protection form CBRN attack and Warning Intelligence in Crisis Management.

Health Alerts on the Internet

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services has published four Health Alerts devoted to the West Nile Disease. These Alerts are in PDF format and can be easily downloaded. If you would like to see these Health Alerts go to the Missouri DHSS home page: <http://www.health.state.mo.us/>. On the home page, go to the left side bar and click on West Nile Virus (it is in red). This leads you to a series of links on West Nile Virus one of which is the Health Alerts. If you do not have access to the Internet, go to your County Public Health Department and ask for the information.

SEMA's Resource Management Class Needs Students

The Resource Management Class (APS) scheduled for September 18-19 at St. Louis University in St. Louis needs more students. The two-day class provides participants with the knowledge and skills to effectively identify, develop, and manage a resource management system. You can fill out an application on line at <http://www.sema.state.mo.us/rj.htm>. If you need more information, you may call Susan Rhodes (Training Assistant) at 573-526-9121.

FEMA September 11 Website

Federal front-line responders to the Sept. 11 attacks now have their own Website, telling the stories of their efforts. The Federal Emergency Management Agency launched the new Website to commemorate the tragedy and "share with America how FEMA and the federal government on behalf of all America responded" to help the victims and assist in the recovery effort after the attacks. Go to http://www.fema.gov/remember911/911_msg.shtm

FEMA Sponsoring a Senior Leaders Homeland Security Summit

FEMA is inviting selected members from response elements from the Region VII States (Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska) to summit entitled: "A Nation Prepared, FEMA's Strategy Plan for Fiscal Years 2003-8" in St. Louis on the 24-25th. SEMA Director Jerry B. Uhlmann has been invited to attend the summit. SEMA is not aware of the invitee list.

Sessions focus on: A Nation Prepared, First Responder Initiatives, Citizen Participation in Homeland Security, National Training Strategy, Fire Service and Homeland Security Initiatives, State and Local Homeland Security Initiatives, Law Enforcement Homeland Security Initiatives, Federal Homeland Security Initiatives and Critical Infrastructure Priorities.

New EAS Event Codes

By Richard Stump, SEMA Communications Officer

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced in February that they were amending part 11 of their regulations, which pertains to the Emergency Alerting System. Among other changes, the Commission adopted twenty-one additional EAS event and location codes, which broadcast stations and cable systems may use to alert the public in the event of state and local emergencies, including a new Child Abduction Emergency event code which may be used to activate AMBER Plans.

The AMBER Plan is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies and the media to send out an emergency alert to the public in serious child abduction cases. It was established in 1996 in response to the abduction and murder of a nine-year old girl in Dallas, Texas. Under the AMBER Plan, area radio and television stations interrupt programming to broadcast information concerning a serious child abduction case using the EAS. AMBER alerts are intended to be used only for the most serious child abduction cases, where police believe the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death, not for runaways or most parental abductions.

It should be noted that many of the EAS encoder/decoder units installed by broadcasters and cable systems are not capable of receiving or transmitting the new codes. The revised EAS rules permit, but do not require, broadcast stations or cable systems to modify their existing EAS equipment so that it is capable of receiving and transmitting the new event and location codes. New or replacement EAS equipment installed after Feb. 1, 2004 must be capable of receiving and transmitting the new codes.

National Weather Service Warning Control Meteorologists have advised that they do not plan to use the new code in warnings issued through NOAA Weather Radio until they are assured that the broadcasters monitoring them can receive and decode the new event codes. This may take an additional two years or longer.

The full text of the FCC's Report and Order amending Part 11 can be found at: www.fcc.gov/eb/Orders/2002/FCC-02-64A1.html Additional information on the Amber plan can be found at: www.missingkids.com/html/amberplan.html.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Planning Requirements

If Missouri Communities want to receive future federal hazard mitigation funding, the county/jurisdiction must prepare a formal multi-natural hazard mitigation plan. SEMA has secured limited funds for this requirement. Realizing there is a tight deadline, SEMA approached the Missouri Association of Councils of Governments (MACOG) and the Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) to determine if they would be interested in helping communities prepare these hazard mitigation plans.

On September 6, 2002, SEMA sent a letter explaining the new federal requirements to elected officials. A copy of the letter was also sent to all Emergency Management Directors. The letter also outlines future steps regarding RPC, local, and SEMA involvement to produce this hazard mitigation plan.

WANTED: First Responder Smart Practices, Innovations

We are looking for smart practices and effective innovations from the first responder community to be shared in an Office of National Preparedness publication. This publication will share the best preparedness-related practices or innovations among the first responder community. We are specifically looking for ideas and recommendations reflecting ways that State and local government and Emergency Management can strengthen the ability of their first responders to handle their response to all disaster events including terrorism. Examples of key programs or interest areas might include effective mutual aid practices, response operations, training, assessment tools, planning models, exercises, or more. Local organizations whose practices are selected will be recognized. Please email your smart practices and effective innovations to SEMA's Tom Mohr at tmohr@sema.state.mo.us.